

White Sulphur Springs

National Fish Hatchery

Represented by the following Members of Congress:

Senator Robert C. Byrd (D)
Senator John D. Rockefeller IV (D)
Rep. Nick Rahall (D-3rd)

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Freshwater mussels

Purpose

White Sulphur Springs National Fish Hatchery was established to produce fish for the nation's lakes and streams.

Management Activities

- Produce 8.4 million rainbow trout eggs, which are shipped to 20 different federal, state and tribal hatcheries in 13 states under the Service's National Broodstock Program
- Class A, disease-free fish hatchery
- Provide 13,000 retired rainbow trout brood fish to West Virginia Division of Natural Resources and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries for their recreational fisheries
- Develop and manage a freshwater mussel propagation program aimed at restoring imperiled species in the mid-Atlantic and southeastern states of the U.S.
- Collaborate with federal, state and non-government agencies on the conservation of freshwater mussels and water quality in West Virginia

Highlights

Co-sponsored a children's fishing derby with the White Sulphur Springs Rotary Club and U.S. Forest Service in celebration of National Fishing Week

One of two national fish hatcheries in the U.S. with production capabilities for rearing and providing refuge to endangered species of freshwater mussels

Ongoing research with Virginia Tech to improve aquaculture technology for the restoration of threatened and endangered freshwater mussel species in West Virginia and southern Appalachia

Evaluate the use of hatchery ponds for maintaining imperiled species of mussels indigenous to West Virginia

Ongoing research with West Virginia University to restore native populations of rare fishes

Issues

Protect the hatchery's springs by acquiring land within the watershed.

Work with partners to develop restoration programs for native fish species.

Develop techniques for mussel propagation and work with partners to restore imperiled mussels.

Replace and renovate hatchery residences.

Create a multipurpose *Aquarium of the Appalachians*, an outdoor visitor center that will provide education on riverine ecology, serve as refugia for endangered freshwater mussels, and enhance propagation efforts to restore endangered mussels and fish in West Virginia.

